

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Report

on the

*Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the District*

for the year ended

December 31st, 1957

Medical Officer of Health
L. Rich, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector
P. KIRKHAM, M.S.I.A.

Engineer and Surveyor
R. O. BIRTWISTLE, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.I.C.S.

To the Chairman and members
of the Congleton Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

There has been an increase in the estimated population of 130 and this now stands at 13,730. The number of births and the birth rate have risen considerably and whereas there has been a slight increase in the number of deaths the death rate has actually fallen.

It is most satisfactory to have to report once again that there has been no death of a mother in child birth. This is particularly noteworthy when one considers that over a third of the mothers continue to have their babies at home. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects great credit on the Hospital and Local Health Authority's Service, who jointly share this responsibility.

There was an epidemic of Measles during the year, but due to the efficacy of modern drugs, provided by the Health Service available to all, few complications and no deaths were recorded. I should like to point out the fall in the number of cases of Whooping Cough. This trend can be seen all over South East Cheshire and is probably being brought about by the immunisation which is now available against this disease.

Health Education Programmes continue to be carried out for mothers and young children and expectant mothers both in the clinics and by individual visits of the Health Visitors to the homes. These Health Visitors are key personnel in the Local Health Authority's services, being responsible for the care of all mothers and young children, Ante-Natal Clinics, old people in their homes and welfare work generally. They maintain a fairly close liaison between patients being treated in their homes and the family doctor. Much of the antagonism formerly felt by General Practitioners towards Health Visitors manifested in the days before

the National Health Service, has now disappeared. The General Practitioners now realise that in Health Visitors they may find a highly trained nurse experienced in general and social medicine, who can assist them considerably in their practice.

Progress too, was made in the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme but during the year frustration and delay occurred owing to the inadequacy in supplies of material.

Once again, I wish to thank your Clerk and his staff for the help and guidance in enabling me to carry out my duties. I wish to record also, the excellent work being carried out by our Public Health Inspector, Mr. P. Kirkham, M.S.I.A., and the assistance given me by him and your Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, in the preparation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health

Throughout this report, the figures in brackets are for the year 1956 and are for purposes of comparison

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated population 13730 (13600)

Births—

Live Births :

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	220	(161)	112 (92)	108 (69)
Illegitimate	9	(3)	4 (2)	5 (1)

Still Births :

Legitimate	4	(2)	3 (—)	1 (2)
Illegitimate	—	(—)	— (—)	— (—)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1957 17.5 (12.2)

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population 16.1 (15.7)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 17.1 (12.0)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per total (live and still) births 22.4 (23.0)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population 29 (.14)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population 36 (.37)

Infantile Mortality—

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	3 (4)	3 (1)	— (3)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births... 13.0 (24.3)

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 23.0 (23.8)

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births 13.6 (24.8)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births — (—)

Deaths—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths, all ages	313 (307)	158 (147)	155 (160)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population 10.7 (11.5)

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population 11.5 (11.7)

The following table show the deaths from all causes within the district during the year :

	Total	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other forms of	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	1	1	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	—	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms... ..	19	17	2
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	2	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	34	15	19
18. Coronary disease, angina	28	19	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	2
20. Other heart disease	23	13	10
21. Other circulatory disease	10	5	5
22. Influenza	6	5	1
23. Pneumonia	1	1	—
24. Bronchitis	13	9	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	3	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	133	50	83
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	4	—
34. All other accidents	9	3	6
35. Suicide	1	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTAL	313	158	155

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis 0 (0)

Other maternal causes 0 (0)

Maternal Mortality rate per 1000 live and still births 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

There is a marked improvement in the attendance rate at four of the Welfare Clinics in our district.

These Clinics are not merely places where mothers may obtain cheap baby food but are essential meeting points in a well balanced Health Service, where mothers with their young children receive help and guidance on a variety of subjects connected with the upbringing of their families. The work is entirely preventive in character and aims at keeping healthy babies well.

	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Welfare Centre									
Goostrey ...	32 (48)	— (—)	— (—)	358 (286)	153 (177)	367 (353)	24 (24)	265 (253)	11.0 (10.5)
Holmes Chapel	50 (28)	— (—)	— (—)	307 (250)	69 (137)	136 (159)	23 (23)	207 (156)	9.0 (6.7)
Mow Cop ...	15 (16)	— (—)	— (—)	160 (141)	46 (71)	112 (116)	24 (24)	290 (301)	12.0 (12.5)
Rode Heath ...	24 (8)	— (—)	— (—)	212 (177)	107 (116)	97 (129)	24 (24)	123 (199)	5.1 (8.2)
Scholar Green...	29 (33)	— (—)	— (—)	286 (330)	136 (125)	137 (201)	24 (24)	151 (238)	6.2 (9.9)

The names of the Health Visitors covering the Rural District are as follows :

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Districts</i>
Parkinson, D.	131 Walnut Av., Weaverham, Northwich.	Goostrey.
Gratrix, A.	85 Wheelock St., Middlewich	Church Hulme, Cranage, Tetton.
Richardson, B.	White House, Crewe Road, Alsager. Tel. Alsager 395	Church Lawton, Odd Rode.
Smith, E. G.	15 Centre Court, Alsager Tel. Alsager 628	Betchton, Hassall, Smallwood.
Spencer, M.	2 Elm Drive, Macclesfield	Hulme Walfield, Somerford, Somer- ford Booths, Swett- cnham, Twemlow.

Jacks, L.	Abbey Croft, Abbey Road, Sandbach. Tel. Sandbach 309	Arclid, Bradwall, Brereton, Elton.
Corbishley, M.	The School Clinic, Park St., Congleton. Tel. Congleton 2095	Moreton-cum- Alcumlow, New- bold Astbury.

Home Nursing—

The District Nurses serving our area act in double capacity as Home Nurses and Midwives. They are as follows :

V. Spencer, Black and White Cottages, Astbury	Congleton 451
G. Maggee, Booth Bank Road, Goostrey	Holmes Chapel 3244
L. B. Blunsum, 19 West Way, Holmes Chapel	Holmes Chapel 2226
H. Barry, 2 Drenfell Road, Scholar Green	Kidsgrove 466
I. Hoyle, 9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852

Once again it is satisfactory to report that no complaints were received during the year of the work done by the Home Nurse. More and more work is being given to these nurses particularly in connection with old people, particularly as Hospital accommodation becomes more difficult to obtain.

Births, 1957—

Live	Hospital Still	Live	Home Still	Private Nursing Home	
				Live	Home Still
168	3	73	—	—	—
(106)	(—)	(68)	(1)	(1)	(—)

Vaccination and Immunisation

Despite the pressure of the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme every effort was made to maintain a high rate of Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisation.

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Pre-school children	5	(8)
School children	22	(13)
	27	(21)
Reinforcing injections	139	(197)

Whooping Cough Immunisation—

Pre-school children	3	(3)
School children	8	(27)
	11	(30)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)—

Pre-school children	137	(140)
School children	22	(28)
	159	(168)

Primary Vaccination—

Pre-school children	120	(84)
School children	7	(1)
Adults	7	(3)
	134	(88)

Re-Vaccination—

Pre-school children	—	(1)
School children	3	(—)
Adults	18	(8)
	21	(9)

Public Health Laboratory Service

A close working liaison exists between the Council's Health Department and the Public Health Laboratory Service, Manchester. Samples are submitted whenever necessary and the service obtained is highly satisfactory.

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport

Satisfactory cover for all types of cases is carried out by Ambulance Stations in Congleton, Sandbach and Alsager. During the year all commitments were satisfactorily fulfilled and a 24 hour service maintained.

No complaints of any descriptions were received during the year.

All drivers and attendants are trained in first aid and are in possession of the St. John First Aid Certificate.

Domestic Help Service

Statistics

Home Helps employed during 1957 :

Full time	—	(—)
Temporary	11	(14)
Casual	5	(3)
	16	(17)

Home Helps employed at December 31st, 1957 :

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	10	(11)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	1	(—)
						11	(11)

Applications received during 1957 :

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	3	(2)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	2	(2)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	4	(9)
						9	(13)

Cases attended during 1957 :

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	1	(3)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	3	(4)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and infirm	...	...	...	...	...	20	(20)
						24	(27)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid- and South-East Cheshire Water Board for the following information.

The area is served by waters from the Boreholes at Mow Cop the Boreholes of the Delamere Hills together with a small bulk supply from the Congleton Borough.

In consequence of frost, the water demands of the area reached an all time high.

During the year, bacteriological samples taken in those districts of the filtered water confirm that the supply is pure and wholesome.

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, for the reports on Sewerage and Housing.

Sewerage

Progress has been made during the year with the construction of the Goostrey Sewerage Scheme which includes outfall works,

sewers and pumping stations. Provision has been made for the receiving and treatment of the sewerage from the Harrison Drive vicinity of the Northwich Rural District.

The sizes of sewers have been designed on the basis of complete exclusion of roof and yard water. In consequence, it has been necessary to devise a scheme for the separation of the drains on private property in order to effect this exclusion prior to connection to the sewers.

A survey was undertaken and plans were prepared of the properties likely to be affected. Individual Bills of Quantities for each property or group of properties were prepared and towards the year's end tenders were invited.

Under these proposals it will be possible to submit to the property owners the offer of a Contractor to connect these drains to the sewer and he would at the same time separate the surface water at the Council's expense by regrading gutters, putting in new fall pipes, gulleys and connecting them to existing land drains or in isolated cases to soakaway filters.

The preparation of the scheme for the enlargement of the Holmes Chapel outfall works (Parish of Church Hulme) based on a process of aeration had to be abandoned because the Council were advised that the trade wastes discharged to their sewers had changed to such an extent that such a process would be unsuitable.

A survey of road surface drainage was undertaken in Holmes Chapel when it was found that 36 out of a total of 51 road gulleys are connected to the Council's foul sewers. This state of affairs is a relic of the past when the Rural Sanitary Authority was also the Highway Authority and combined sewers were laid. It creates a problem at the present time particularly since most of the gulleys are serving the trunk road.

A scheme for the renewal of the storm overflow sewer in Holmes Chapel from Knutsford Road to the River Dane was prepared and let on tender.

Work commenced during the year under review on the sewers and disposal works at Brereton Green, in the Parish of Brereton. The immediate construction of these works resulted from the need for the Housing Scheme in School Lane.

A report was prepared on the proposal to relieve the surcharged sewers in Mount Pleasant in the Parish of Odd Rode, by the construction of bypass sewers but it was considered that as a first step a survey should be undertaken with a view to eliminating, if possible, some of the surface water which is discharged to the sewers.

During the year it became apparent that subsidence in Thurlwood was more active than it had been in recent years and so consideration was given to the possibility of conveying the sewage from the Rode Heath and Thurlwood areas of the Parish of Odd Rode to the Snapes Aqueduct Sewage Disposal Works. An alternative scheme for a separate works for Rode Heath and Thurlwood at Lynnhouse Bridge was finally considered to be the most satisfactory.

In connection with the Red Bull scheme in the Parish of Church Lawton lengthy negotiations took place with the authorities concerned, for the crossing of the Canal and Railway Bridges, additionally the location of the site for the pumping station proved somewhat difficult due to problems regarding access and to the reluctance of land owners to sell the land required.

Housing

The programme for 1958 included 14 houses, 25 bungalows and one shop located on five sites in the Parishes of Brereton, Church Hulme, Goostrey, Church Lawton and Odd Rode. The planning of the shop is so arranged that it can be let with or without living accommodation. All these dwellings are to be let to people who are occupying sub-standard properties.

Houses owned by the Council

	at Dec. 1956	at Dec. 1957
Pre 1939	171	185
Post 1945	757	769
Under construction	42	32
	970	986

In the Ministry of Housing and Local Government return for the quarter ended 31/12/57, the Council are shown to have built 54.8 houses per 1000 of population.

During the year of Council introduced firm price tendering. All P.C. Sums were taken out of the specification and quality of components was controlled by description and sample.

This change of policy meant that the plans had to be prepared for each site individually since they had to indicate the actual requirements as to foundations, paths, drains, fences, etc.

It was decided to buy three cottages called Mill Terrace in the Parish of Hassall. They will need to be brought up to a reasonable standard of fitness.

Garages

It became possible during the year to build garages again and contracts for 17 were let on our sites at Holmes Chapel (Northway 4), Odd Rode (Meadow Bank 6), Goostrey (Booth Bed Lane 6), Betchton (Hassall Green 3).

At December, 1957, the Council's ownership of Council house Garages was as follows :

Meadow Bank	...	...	...	...	...	14
Hassall Green	...	...	...	...	...	3
Northway, Holmes Chapel	...	...	...	...	...	6
Westway, Holmes Chapel	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rees Crescent, Holmes Chapel	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cranage	...	...	...	...	...	2
						43

Maintenance of Council Houses

From January to December the total number of complaints made by tenants was 1215. This shows a reduction on 1956. It is thought that this may be due to the decision to make tenants responsible for small items of maintenance.

In 1956 good results were achieved in the painting of Council houses by staff engaged for the purpose and it was decided to expand the scheme so that 75 houses were painted in 1957 by an implemented staff.

The Electricity Board has made progress with the electrification scheme and it became possible to let contracts for overhauling the wiring installations at Holmes Chapel Road, Somerford, Brereton Heath Lane, and to wire houses at Davenport and Hulme Walfield. Some of these houses were wired in 1939 when constructed. During the long intervening period some deterioration had taken place quite apart from the fact that the wiring was in some respects substandard.

Private Development

The number of plans submitted for approval under Building Byelaws was 232. Of these 40 were for private houses, 71 for garages and 121 for other buildings, drainage installations and extensions to existing property.

Plans submitted for consideration under the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, totalled 301.

Inspections carried out in accordance with the requirements were approximately 500.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tuberculosis

Seven new cases were notified, six Pulmonary and one Non-Pulmonary and the number of people on register at December 31st, 1957, is shown below.

	Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary ...	—	—	1	2	4	6	6	3	4	26
Female Pulmonary ...	—	—	1	4	6	3	1	—	1	16
Male Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	4	5	1	—	1	—	—	11
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	4	5	5	2	2	2	—	20

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1957 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1948.

Notifications — 1948 to 1957

	1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 Year						1														
1- 5											1	1		1						
5-15				2								1		1		1				
15-25	1					1		1											1	
25-35			2		1		1	2				1							1	
35-45	1		1		1															
45-55			1														1		2	
55-65					3		1			1							1		1	
65 and over							1		1											
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 Year																				
1- 5									1			1								
5-15							2	1	1											1
15-25			1	1	1		3	1			2			2		2				
25-35							1		1	1				1	1					
35-45			1							1									1	
45-55	1		1																	
55-65														1						
65 and over																				
TOTAL	3	0	7	3	6	1	7	4	4	4	3	2	3	2	4	3	4	1	6	1

Deaths — 1948 to 1957

	1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 Year					1															
1- 5												1								
5-15																				
15-25			1																	
25-35	1	1																		
35-45			1				1													
45-55					1							1							1	
55-65					1					1							1			
65 and over	1								1									1		
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 Year																				
1- 5																				
5-15									1											
15-25																				
25-35															1					
35-45							1								1					
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 and over																				
TOTAL	1	1	3	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1957

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION														Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
	Under 1	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 35	35- 45	45- 65	65 & over					
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	1	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	7	4	—		
Whooping Cough	—	3	—	3	—	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	17	1	—		
Measles ...	5	4	19	15	22	115	19	3	—	1	—	—	203	—	—		
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	—	3	—	3	4	17	5	1		
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	7	—	—		
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—		
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—		
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—		

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. P. Kirkham, the Public Health Inspector.

Cleansing

This service, now in its 5th year on the present comprehensive basis, has become one accepted by the Council as efficient and economic and accepted by the ratepayers to be as regular as the daily milk. It is to the credit of the men carrying out this often very unpleasant and arduous task, that this has been achieved. There have been no noteworthy changes in administration during the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Dustbins are emptied weekly over the greater part of the area with only the more outlying houses being serviced less frequently. 4 vehicles, each having a driver and 2 loaders are used. Disposal is by tipping and although no special tip labour is employed, reasonable time is allocated for this work and the tips have been maintained in a satisfactory condition. One tip, however, not owned by the Council but used merely by agreement, has been a source of trouble owing to uncontrolled use by others. Wherever possible, it is far more satisfactory for the Council to secure sole tipping rights.

A tip has been started in the scrub land adjoining the Depot at Arclid. The land is being cleared of useless birch trees and after tipping will be used as a storage yard for the Engineer and Surveyor's department. Owing to the last load of each vehicle being tipped here each day on returning to the Depot, considerable economy has resulted. A reduction in mileage in 1956 of approximately 5600 miles has contributed to a saving of over 1000 gallons of petrol. Negotiations are proceeding to try and secure land on an adjoining site to the Depot which would ensure similar economy for many years ahead. All tips, 8 in total, are treated regularly for insect and rodent infestation. No such serious infestation occurred.

Night Soil Collection

This work slowly decreases owing to demolition and closure of houses, and the conversion of closets to water closets. There are now approximately 520 pails and vaults in the area. 424 pails are emptied weekly and 96 vaults fortnightly. The completion of the sewer at Goostrey and subsequent conversion of closets will

further reduce the work. A Karrier cesspool emptier with night soil attachments is used with a normal complement of one driver and two men. The work is completed in 3—3½ days each week. Disposal is either at sewage works or by composting, apart from a small amount disposed of by spreading on farmers' fields. Wherever possible, this latter course is avoided, firstly owing to possible health objections and secondly owing to the difficulty of vehicles negotiating the land.

Septic Tank Service

Approximately 2 days a week are spent on this work and the demand steadily increases, particularly in respect of private houses where 84 more hours were allocated to this work than in 1956 and 55 more loads removed. Disposal is mostly on to sludge beds at sewage works or on to farmers' fields. The following are the details of the work carried out :

	No. of Loads	No. of Hours	No. of Visits	No. of diff. tanks
Industrial	110	103	26	2
Council	268	309½	99	48
Private	250	285	117	97
Outside area ...	4	5½	2	2
TOTAL...	632	703	244	149

Salvage

No bonus scheme is operated but the baling of paper and container waste is done in overtime at a cost of £138 plus £14 materials. The following are the details of sales :

	Weight	Revenue
Container Waste	10 tons 7 cwt 1 qtr	£98 8 11
Mixed Baled Paper ...	36 tons 7 cwt 0 qtr	£272 12 5
Salvaged Tins from Refuse	3 tons 1 cwt 0 qtr	£15 15 0

Vehicles and Maintenance

The Council operate four Karrier Gamecock refuse vehicles and one Karrier Cesspool Emptier. A 1948 Fordson is kept as a spare vehicle both for refuse and, by means of a removable tank, for night soil. The majority of minor repairs are carried out by the foreman driver including repainting, and the equipment pro-

vided is being steadily increased. A small portable compressor, drill, grinder and vulcaniser and other miscellaneous tools have been purchased. A stock of spares is growing and the Depot is now equipped with storage bins capable of being readily expanded. Stocking of spares is more practicable even with the limited number of vehicles on the road, owing to standardising on one make of vehicle. All drivers are allowed time weekly for washing down their vehicles and greasing.

Number	Make	Duty	Mileage	Petrol	m.p.g.
PMB 601	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse collection	5453	945	5.77
PMB 602	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse collection	5815	1185	4.80
PMB 603	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse collection	6618	936	7.0
WMA363	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse collection	7637	1083	7.0
PMB 604	Karrier Cesspool Emptyer	Night Soil and Septic Tanks	11235	1851	6.0
KMA 128	Fordson	Spare Vehicle— Refuse or Nightsoil	985	201	4.9
TOTALS			37743	6201	6.08

Food and Food Premises

With very few exceptions, all food premises have now been surveyed since the inception of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Continued progress has been maintained in securing compliance with the Regulations.

One butcher was prosecuted under Regulations 14(5), 15(2), 16(1), (2), (3), 17, 19(1)(a), 23(1) and 23(1)(a). The premises consisted of a lock-up shop and the occupier had been refused permission by the owner to carry out structural works. Fines totalling £15/5/0 and costs were imposed, with a daily penalty after one month. The premises were brought up to standard.

A further butcher failed to comply with the Regulations but although the Council has given authority to institute proceedings, the case was not proceeded with as the premises were brought up to standard. Two unsatisfactory shops tenanted by elderly people ceased business. Both premises are now awaiting demolition after action under the Housing Acts.

School canteens have not yet been inspected and a survey by the County Council is awaited.

26 letters have been sent drawing attention to contraventions and 59 such letters have been complied with during the year.

156 visits have been made to food premises. The following are details of the premises in this area :

Grocers and General	35
Licensed Houses and Clubs ...	34
Cafes	15
Village Halls	8
School Canteens	16
Factory Canteens	5
Bakehouses	3
Sweet and Confectionery	5
Green Grocers	1
Butchers	7
Chemists	2
Fish and Chips	3
TOTAL ...	134

26 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and one for manufacture by the complete cold mix method under Section 16(1)(a) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. There are 8 other premises registered under Section 16(1)(b), 3 Fish and Chip, 4 Sausage and Meat Pies and 1 Food Canning Factory.

Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

2 private slaughterhouses are licensed and kill only for sale in the shops attached to them. Their licences, last renewed for a three year period, expire on June 30th, 1959. Slaughtering hours are reasonable, very little Sunday killing occurs and good co-operation exists with the licensees. 157 visits have been made during the year and the following table gives details of the work carried out :

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	84	60	1	279	37	—
Number inspected	84	60	1	279	37	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	3	—	1	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.3%	5.0%	—	0.35%	—	—

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned	—	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	17	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.1%	31.6%	—	—	5.4%	—

Cysticercosis:

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

During absence owing to leave or sickness, an inspector from a neighbouring authority acts as relief on a reciprocal basis.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1953—1954

5 licences were issued to people residing in the area.

Milk Regulations, 1949

The following table shows the number of licences issued during the year :

Dealers—

Pasteurised	11
Sterilised	13
Tuberculin Tested	10

Supplementary—

Pasteurised	9
Sterilised	5
Tuberculin Tested	10

Factories and Work Places

A review has been made of all factories which should possess a Certificate of Means of Escape in case of fire. Works have been carried out to make premises satisfactory and in all but two of the larger factories, up to date Certificates have been issued. In these two cases works are being carried out on an extensive scale and issue of a new Certificate has been deferred pending completion.

The following table gives information as to the number of registered factories and inspections made—

	No. on register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices
(1) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	5	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	36	30	4
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	—	—	—
	43	35	4

Cases in which defects were found

Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Unsuitable or defective	4	2	2

Outworkers

Wearing Apparel (making, etc., cleaning and washing)... 1

Sanitary Inspections

Summary of Visits

Animals, Keeping of	3
Conversions	24
Drainage—including septic tanks, etc.	113
Dustbins	4
Factory—with Mechanical Power	30
Factory—without Mechanical Power	5
Food Premises—General	43
Food Premises—Bakehouses	2
Food Premises—Butchers	28
Food Premises—Cafes and Canteens	24
Food Premises—Dairy, etc.	4
Food Premises—Fish and Chips	6
Food Premises—Ice Cream	8
Food Premises—Hotels and P.H.	39
Food Premises—Slaughterhouses	157
Food Premises—Unsound Food	2
Housing—General	396
Housing—Overcrowding	1
Housing—Council House Applications	90
Housing—Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants	191
Infectious Disease	8
Infectious Disease—Disinfection	5
Insect Pests	12

Insect Pests—Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Nuisance—General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Nuisance—Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Scavenging—General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Scavenging—Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Scavenging—Teams at Work	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Scavenging—Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Workplaces, Offices, Farms, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous—Interviews, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
TOTAL									1663

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Statutory Notices complied with by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Statutory Notices complied with by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Conversions

9 properties at Goostrey had closets converted under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The new sewer and sewage works in this parish were very near completion at the end of 1957, and it is hoped to secure conversion of a further 44 properties. Connections to the sewer of properties already having W.C.s will be requested where present drainage arrangements are unsatisfactory. Separation of rain water is to be achieved and the Council are undertaking to pay for this item.

Water Supply

9 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and 6 were found to be satisfactory. Of the 3 unsatisfactory samples, one was from a house which is to be closed and the tenant re-housed, and the 2 others were sources of supply to a caravan which has since been removed.

Moveable Dwellings

There are two privately owned caravan sites within the area, one at Goostrey (25 caravans), and one at Somerford (30 caravans). One site at Byley (4 caravans) has been discontinued and planning approval has expired. The Goostrey site is in regular use, and plans

are proceeding for commencing the Somerford site. The owner of the latter was refused permission under planning to establish his site but an appeal against this decision was allowed.

There were also six sites for individual caravans approved during the year.

Rodent Control

The Council employ a full time Rodent Operative and use a small van exclusively for this work. 69 farmers and industrial premises hold contracts for the destruction of rats and mice. The following details are given of the work carried out :

	Number treated	Number of Visits
Private Houses	29	125
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	26	1171
Industrial and Trade Premises...	21	306
Farms	53	847
	129	2449

In addition, 12 private houses and 112 farms were surveyed during the year. Sewers again proved negative after test baiting.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928 and 1936

The Council have adopted the Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions as issued by the Home Office. 58 premises are licensed and all were circulated with the full details. The Fire Prevention Officer of the Cheshire County Council visits all premises at the time of issue or renewal of licences and advises the Council where necessary.

Housing

The Council have continued to make good progress in fulfilment of ther five year programme agreed at the conclusion of the survey in 1954.

The figures for the last three years are as follows :

	Houses closed	Demolished	Made fit	Total
1954-55	36	10	6	52
1956	36	5	13	54
1957	27	14	14	55
	99	29	33	161

The Council now have in course of erection, 14 houses and 25 bungalows, of which 24 units are provisionally allocated for re-housing from unfit properties.

Originally 231 houses were found to be unfit and not capable of being made fit at reasonable cost. Further unfit houses have been added from time to time, but at the end of 1957, only 83 houses had not yet been dealt with. It is possible that about half of these, occupied by elderly people who have no wish to be moved, will be the subject of statutory undertakings by the owners not to re-use for human habitation after vacation by the present occupiers until such time as they have been made fit. The re-housing of elderly people into modern bungalows at Church Lawton, Kent Green and elsewhere has been a social service of value difficult to appreciate to the full, and one of which the Council may be justly proud. Knowing the untold hardship, discomfort and inconvenience suffered by these old folk for so many years, I know the happiness and comfort now being enjoyed will be something treasured always. Hot water on tap, baths, wash basins, electricity, internal water-closets, freedom from damp and crumbling plaster are but few of the things valued and appreciated to the full.

Improvement Grants

Until the increase in the Bank Rate to 7%, the Council continued a most active policy with improvement grants. The following figures of grants approved are indicative of the amount of work carried out :

Previous to 1954	...	3 houses	...	£645	3	0
1954	...	21 houses	...	£4531	0	9
1955	...	46 houses	...	£11089	9	1
1956	...	21 houses	...	£5641	0	0
1957	...	19 houses	...	£4520	0	0
TOTAL...		110 houses		£26436	12	10

The consideration of Grants has been suspended until March, 1958, when the matter will be reviewed in light of Interest Rates and of the Estimates for 1958-59. It is greatly to be hoped that this work can be allowed to continue and that many more houses can be given a rejuvenation by the addition of modern amenities.

Certificates of Disrepair

The Rent Act, 1954, having become moribund, the Rent Act, 1957, revived activity in this direction. The Council obtained a supply of the appropriate forms for resale. Although 23 Form

“G”s (Schedule of Defects) were sold, and it may be presumed many tenants would have obtained these forms elsewhere, only six applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. It is possible therefore, that most landlords have considered it worthwhile to carry out repairs to secure the increased rent. The following details are given :

“J” Proposals to Issue Certificates of Disrepair	6
“K” Undertakings by Landlord Accepted ...	1
Certificates of Disrepair Issued	5
(Some Defects 3 ; All Defects 2)	
Certificates Cancelled (Issued under 1954 Act)	1

Considerable difficulty was experienced in preparing Certificates of Disrepair based, as required, on the Tenants Form “G”. Lack of elementary knowledge of building repairs sometimes coupled with illiteracy, resulted in the Council having to accept a broad interpretation of the intentions of the applicant. To date, however, such interpretations have not been questioned by landlord or tenant.

